

ACROCHORDUS JAVANICUS.



CHARACTER GENERICUS.

Verrucæ totum corpus obtegentes.

CHARACTER SPECIFICUS, &c.

ACROCHORDUS terreo-fuscus, fubtus pallidior, lateribus albido-variegatis.

L'ACROCHORDE DE JAVA.

Cepede Hist. Nat. des Serpents, p. 472.

ACROCHORDUS JAVANICUS.

Hornstedt.

Memoires de l'Académie des Sciences de Stockholm, an. 1787. p. 306.

Journal de Physique, an. 1788. p. 284.

Differt Acrochordus a reliquo omni serpentino genere, quod non squamis sed tuberculis innumeris verrucarum ad instar totus sit obductus. Genus igitur revera est distinctum, cujus unica tantum species (illa nempe quæ in tabula depingitur) adhuc cognita est. Infulam Javam inhabitat, amatque præcipue degere ubi piper fatum fuerit. Crescit

cit Acrochordus in magnam molem, longus scilicet interdum plusquam pedes septem. Caput modicum, vix collo latius, paulum complanatum est. Corpus versus medium sensim crassius prope caudam subito contrahitur et gracilescit. Cauda ipsa, brevissima si cum corpore comparetur, apicem habet leviter acuminatum. Color rarissimi hujus serpentis est terreo-fuscus, dorso nigriore, ventre pallidiore, quæ variatio subobscurè cernitur in lateribus. Vifu asper et injucundus est Acrochordus, expers autem veneni, quippe quod careat dentibus tubulatis, qui serpentibus solummodo virulentis contingunt. Specimen ipsissimum, unde delineata nostra figura, in Museo Britannico asservatur, pedes circitur tres longum. Si microscopio accurate examinentur verrucæ, species esse squamarum videntur, quæ admodum convexæ carina semi-longitudinali obtuse-acuminata instruuntur: minores vero quæ prope caudam, præter mediam carinam prominentia utrinque notantur.



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THE
ACROCHORDUS,
OR
WARTED SNAKE.



GENERIC CHARACTER.

Tubercles resembling warts covering the whole body.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER, &c.

BROWN ACROCHORDUS, paler beneath; with the sides obscurely variegated with whitish.

HORNSTEDT. *descr.*

Mem: de l'Acad: des Sciences de Stockholm. 1787.

p. 306.

Journal de Physique. 1788. p. 284.

The Acrochordus differs from all the rest of the serpent tribe in being covered all over with innumerable muricated wart-like prominences. It therefore forms a distinct genus, of which the species here represented is the only one at present known. It is an inhabitant of Java, and is principally found
amongst

amongst plantations of pepper. It sometimes attains to a very considerable size; having been seen of the length of more than seven feet. The head is of moderate size, or scarce of greater diameter than the neck, and of a somewhat flattened shape: the body gradually thicker towards the middle, and suddenly contracts towards the tail, which is very short in proportion, and slightly acuminate at its extremity. The colour of this curious snake is an earthy-brown, deeper on the back, and somewhat paler or more inclining to white on the under surface: an obscure sort of variegation is also visible on each side the body. It is an animal of an unpleasing appearance, but is not of a poisonous nature, being unprovided with those tubular teeth or fangs which are peculiar to venomous serpents. The specimen from which the present figure was taken is in the British Museum, and is about three feet in length.

On accurate examination, by the assistance of a glass, the verrucæ or prominences on the skin of the *Acrochordus* appear to be a species of scales, extremely convex, and furnished with an elevated semi-longitudinal obtusely-acuminate ridge or carina; and the smaller scales, or those towards the tail, are furnished with two smaller or lateral prominences; viz. one on each side the middle one.